

What is claimed is:

[c1]A method for authenticating records by a second party (service-provider) for a first party (record-owner) comprising:

- a) obtaining a record by at least one of
 - i) creating an original record, and
 - ii) accessing a record from a server (or from an archive), and
 - iii) accepting a record from the first party;
- b) determining and recording the record's attributes;
- c) appending the attributes recorded in step (b) to the record;
- d) adding a date stamp to the record;
- e) attesting the entire record, including the appended determinations, with the service-provider's seal;
- f) providing the entire record in read-only format to at least one of the first party (record-owner) and a third party (a record-recipient).

[c2]A method for authenticating records by a second party (service-provider) for a first party (record-owner) comprising:

- a) obtaining a record by at least one of
 - i) creating an original record, and
 - ii) accessing a record from a server (or an archive), and
 - iii) accepting a record from the record owner;
- b) determining and recording the record's attributes;
- c) appending the attributes recorded in step (b) to the record;
- d) adding a date stamp to the record;
- e) converting the portion of the record not in digital form, to digital form;
- f) maintaining the entire record, including the appended determinations, in read-only format, on a secure server.

[c3]A method as in claim 2, which further comprises providing the entire record to at least one of the first party (record-owner) and a third party (record-recipient).

[c4]A method as in claim 2, which further comprises the second party (service-provider) providing a record-address for accessing it from the secure server.

[c5]A method as in claim 4, which further comprises the second party (service-provider) providing a password for accessing it from the secure server.

[c6]A method as in claim 4, wherein the secure server is accessible via the Internet and the record-address is a Universal Resource Locator.

[c7]A method as in claim 1, which further comprises the second party (service-provider) charging a fee for determining the record's attributes.

[c8]A method as in claim 2, which further comprises the second party charging a fee for making determinations of the record attributes.

[c9]A method for authenticating records by a second party (service-provider) for a first party (record-owner) comprising:

- a) obtaining a record by at least one of
 - i) creating an original record, and
 - ii) accessing a record from a server (or some archive), and
 - iii) accepting a record from the first party;
- b) determining the record's attributes;
- c) adding a date stamp to the record;
- d) providing the entire record in read-only format to at least one of the first party (record-owner) and a fourth party (attributes-recorder).

[c10] A method as in claim 9, which further comprises the second party (service-provider) attesting the entire record, including the determinations, with its seal.

[c11] A method for recording the original record provided by the first party, and the said determinations in claim 9, made by the second party, into a data structure or a form-like medium.

[c12] A method for maintaining the entire said record in claim 11, on a secure server and providing a record-address for accessing the entire said record.

[c13] A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of determining the record's attributes by the second party (service-provider) further comprises determining the identifying information of the first party (record-owner).

[c14] A method as in claim 2, wherein said step of determining the record's attributes by the second party (service-provider) further comprises determining the identifying information of the first party (record-owner).

[c15] A method where a second party (service-provider) authenticates a record of the person (first party) seeking to subscribe to a dating service, and the original record is the first party's photograph or a video recording and /or sound, and the second party determines one or more attributes selected from the group consisting of name, age,

qualifications (degrees and institutions attended and organizations employed at), height, weight, gender, race, measurements of chest, waist and hip circumference, eye and hair color, facial hair, baldness, skin complexion, address, city, state and country of residency, citizenship and U.S. residency status, whether or not the person wears spectacles or lenses as shown or stated on a photo ID, has speech impediment or requires a hearing aid. The second party attests its seal and date, and perhaps also a location stamp, to the original record, appended with the certifier's determinations.

- [c16] A method for recording the said determinations in claim 15 and the original record provided by the first party into a data structure or a form-like medium.
- [c17] A method for maintaining the entire said record in claim 16 on a secure server and providing a record-address for accessing it.
- [c18] A method as in claim 17, which further comprises providing a password for accessing the record from the secure server.
- [c19] A method where the original record is a photograph or a video recording of a pet, and the second party determines one or more attributes selected from the group consisting of color, markings, hair length, plumage, gender, length, height and weight, and the approximate age of the pet. The second party attests its seal and date, and perhaps also a location stamp, to the original record, appended with the certifier's determinations.
- [c20] A method for recording the said determinations in claim 19 and the original record provided by the first party into a data structure or a form-like medium.
- [c21] A method for maintaining the entire said record in claim 20 on a secure server and providing the record-address for accessing it.
- [c22] A method as in claim 1, wherein the original record is advertisement, specifications, a catalog listing, or a posting for a product or service offered by the first party.
- [c23] A method as in claim 2, wherein the original record is advertisement, specifications, a catalog listing, or a posting for a product or service offered by the first party, which further comprises the second party (service-provider) providing a record-address for accessing the entire record from the secure server.
- [c24] A method where the first party (an entity offering a product or service) provides the original record (specifications, claims or advertising material) and requests the second party (an independent certifier) to objectively determine the record attributes and the identifying information of the record-owner (record-provider).

- [c25] A method for recording the said determinations in claim 24 and the original record provided by the first party into a data structure or a form-like medium.
- [c26] A method for maintaining the entire said record in claim 25 on a secure server and providing the record-address for accessing it.
- [c27] A method as in claim 1, wherein the original record is a document and step (b) comprises determining and recording one or more attributes selected from the group consisting of file-size, file-name, title, abstract, keywords for search, table of contents; list of figures, charts and tables; subject and categories under which the document can be searched; and the document's format.
- [c28] A method as in claim 2, wherein the original record is a document and step (b) comprises determining and recording one or more attributes selected from the group consisting of file-size, file-name, title, abstract, keywords for search, table of contents; list of figures, charts and tables; subject and categories under which the document can be searched; and the document's format.
- [c29] A method as in claim 1, wherein the original record is a drawing or artwork.
- [c30] A method as in claim 2, wherein the original record is a drawing or artwork.
- [c31] A method as in claim 1, wherein the original record is an integrated production of one or more of sound, text, video, drawings and images of one or more of: an event, place, service, process, procedure, or an object and the attributes include one or more of relevant descriptions and or measurements of: the event, place, service, process, procedure, or object, expressed by writing, drawing, displaying, and speaking or acting by the service-provider.
- [c32] A method as in claim 2, wherein the original record is an integrated production of one or more of sound, text, video, drawings and images of one or more of: an event, place, service, process, procedure, or object and the attributes include one or more of relevant descriptions and or measurements of: the event, place, service, process, procedure, or object, expressed by writing, drawing, displaying, and speaking or acting by the service-provider.
- [c33] A method as in claim 1, wherein the record attributes in step (b) are selected from the group consisting of the format of: an executable application and the application's most likely use; sound or video recording; document; image; alphanumeric record and its most likely use; record size; where and when the record was accessed.

- [c34] A method as in claim 2, wherein the record attributes in step (b) are selected from the group consisting of the format of: an executable application and the application's most likely use; sound or video recording; document; image; alphanumeric record and its most likely use; record size; where and when the record was accessed.
- [c35] A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure comprising:
- a first data field having the original record;
 - a second data field having one or more record attributes;
 - a third data field having the date the record is certified;
 - a fourth data field having the identifying information of the first party (record-owner or record-provider);
 - a fifth data field having one or more of the identifying information and the seal of the second party (service-provider) making the determinations of the record's attributes.
- [c36] A computer-readable medium according to claim 35 further comprising a sixth data field for designating that the data structure is read-only.
- [c37] A computer-readable medium according to claim 35 further comprising a sixth data field containing a password to access the record.
- [c38] A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure according to claim 35 wherein the record attributes in the second data field are in encrypted format.
- [c39] A computer-readable medium according to claim 35 further comprising a sixth data field having an access code for retrieving data in one or more of the other data fields.
- [c40] A computer-readable medium according to the 35 wherein the data recorded in the second data field is selected from a group consisting of image data, sound data and alphanumeric data.
- [c41] A computer-readable medium according to claim 35 further comprising a data field (which could be part of another data structure but is linked to the said data structure of claim 35) having fee information that the second party (service provider making the determinations) charges the first party (record-owner or record-provider).
- [c42] A set of application program interfaces embedded on a computer-readable medium for execution on a computer in conjunction with an application program that:
- identifies records held on a secure server controlled by a second party and deposited by a first party, in response to a request for access by a third party having a key provided by the first party,

- b) identifies records held on a secure server controlled by a second party and deposited by the third party, in response to a request for access by the first party having a key provided by the third party,
- c) after confirming that both the first party and third party have released authentic keys to each other:
 - i) releases the record deposited by the first party to the third party, and
 - ii) releases the record deposited by the third party to the first party.

[c43] A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method which comprises:

- a) accessing a record from one or more of another computer or another computer-readable medium;
- b) determining and recording the record's attributes;
- c) appending the determinations in step (b) to the original record;
- d) adding a date stamp;
- e) saving the entire record, including the determinations, in read-only format.

[c44] A method claim according to claim 43 that further comprises attesting the entire record, including the appended determinations, with one or more of the service-provider's seal and its identifying information.

[c45] A claim according to claim 43 that further comprises maintaining the record, including the appended determinations, on a secure server.

[c46] A claim according to claim 45 that further comprises providing a record-address to access the record.

[c47] A claim according to claim 46 that further comprises providing a password to access the record.